Authority. The mandate assigned to the Food Authority is laying down science based standards for articles of food and to regulate their manufacture, storage, distribution, sale and import, to ensure availability of safe and wholesome food for human consumption. The food samples will continue to be tested in accredited & upgraded Prevention of Food Adulteration (PFA) laboratories in different parts of the country. Other functions of the Food Authority will follow after the finalisation of the rules, regulations and procedures stated to be completed by December 2009.

Purchase of paddy by FCI and NAFED

†596.SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Food Corporation of India (FCI), purchases adequate quantity of paddy from the farmers in the country;

(b) whether the role of NAFED is also praiseworthy in this matter;

(c) if so, the details along with quantity of paddy being purchased by FCI and NAFED, State-wise;

(d) whether States have any system by which paddy is purchased from farmers at minimum support price; and

(e) if so, the manner in which the Union Government and the State Governments are co-ordinating and the actual status thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government agencies (Food Corporation of India (FCI) and the State agencies) have procured adequate quantity of paddy/rice for the Central Pool to meet the requirements of rice for Targeted Public Distribution System and other Welfare Schemes as well as to maintain buffer stocks.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The State-wise procurement of paddy by FCI and NAFED in Kharif Marketing Season 2008-09 is given in the Statement (*See* below).

(d) and (e) The Government extends price support to paddy through the Food Corporation of India and State agencies. Paddy conforming to the prescribed specifications are bought by the public procurement agencies at Minimum Support Price (MSP). As per Government policy farmers are free to sell their paddy to the Government agencies at MSP or to private agencies, as is advantageous to them. FCI and agencies of State Governments open sufficient number of purchase centres for procurement of paddy. Control Rooms are also opened by FCI and State agencies to monitor procurement operations and to avoid distress sale *i.e.* sale below the MSP.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Statement

State-wise procurement of paddy by FCI and NAFED in Kharif Marketing Season 2008-09 (Oct.-Sept.)*

(in lakh tonnes)

States/U.T.	Procurement by FCI	Procurement by NAFED
A&N Islands	0.00	
Andhra Pradesh	0.40	
Assam	0.01	
Bihar	1.70	
Chandigarh	0.08	
Chhattisgarh	8.48	
Haryana	0.10	
Jammu & Kashmir	0.01	
Jharkhand	0.16	
Karnataka	0	
Kerala	0	
Madhya Pradesh	0.53	
Maharashtra	0	
Orissa	0.45	3.05
Pondicherry	0.03	
Punjab	2.06	
Rajasthan	0	
Tamil Nadu	0	
Uttar Pradesh	7.47	1.33
Uttaranchal	0	
West Bengal	0.21	0.82
ALL INDIA TOTAL	21.73	5.2

*As on 16.2.2009

Bogus ration cards

597. SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that there are about 2.3 crores bogus cards in the PDS;

(b) whether Government is also aware that about 1.21 crores deserving poor are without ration card;

(c) if so, what is the reaction of Government on part (a) above and what amount of foodgrains are supplied against the 2.3 crore bogus ration cards and where ultimately foodgrains are reaching;

(d) whether Government has ever enquired about the malpractice; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) to (e) Targeted Public Distribution System